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FARM BUSINESS FACTS

Broadcast by Marvin Sandstrom, Agricultural Marketing Service, in the Department of Agriculture portion of the National Farm and Home Hour Monday, August 19, 1940, by the National Broadcasting Company and associated radio stations of the Blue Network.

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KADDERLY:

From the Agricultural Marketing Service -- to give us a summary of the early August report on poultry and egg production -- we have Mr. Marvin Sandstrom. I understand, Sandy, that the upturn in the size of the Nation's laying flock has been checked. And that farmers are beginning to cut down on the number of layers kept in their flocks.

SANDSTROM:

That's correct, Wallace. The early August figures show that the number of layers on hand was only 1 percent larger than it was in early August last year. But in other recent months the number of layers on farms has been several percent higher than for the corresponding time last year.

KADDERLY:

In other words, the size of the nation's laying flock appears to have reached its peak.

SANDSTROM:

That's right. The reports we have received from poultrymen all over the country indicate that laying flocks this winter will be about 5 percent smaller than during the winter of 1939-40. But the exact extent to which flocks this winter will be smaller than flocks last winter, depends, of course, upon how egg prices during the next few months compare with prices poultrymen must pay for feed.

KADDERLY:

You mean that if egg prices become less favorable compared with what farmers must pay for feed ---

SANDSTROM:

Farmers naturally will cull their flocks and sell off their layers more freely.

KADDERLY:

But egg prices have held up pretty well, I think even though laying flocks have been considerably larger than they were through the spring and summer months last year.

SANDSTROM:

You are right again, Wallace. Egg production through July continued high.

July egg production ran up to big figures and was the largest for any July since 1931. So the markets had plenty of eggs. However, even though production was up, the average price paid producers in mid-July was within one-tenth of a

cent a dozen of the July price last year. And it was 2 cents a dozen higher than in mid-June this year. That is, of course, the average price of eggs for the country as a whole was 2 cents a dozen higher in mid-July than in mid-June.

KADDERLY:

But what about storage stock of eggs. They of course will have something to do with egg prices this fall and winter.

SANDSTROM:

Yes. Cold storage stocks of shell eggs in early August were reported as 7 and three quarter million cases. That's about 11 percent more eggs than were in storage at this time last year. However, these include more than a million cases of eggs that are held for relief distribution. Commercially held stocks of shell eggs actually are about 4 to 5 percent smaller than a year ago.

KADDERLY:

So in a general way, you'd summarize the early August poultry and egg production report as showing --- What?

SANDSTROM:

. . . As showing prospects of fewer layers than last year during the coming fall and winter months --- And late summer egg prices holding very close to last year's prices despite the larger production^{are} - - And also that stored stocks of shell eggs and frozen eggs taken together^{are} about the same as at this time last year.

KADDERLY: Adlib conclusion

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